

Application/Control Number: 10/285,611 (Yankee)

Art Unit: 3632

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**In the Claims:**

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

11. (currently amended)

~~The A~~ A drip system tool of claim 1 comprising:

a first elongated piercing member having a handle end, a central portion, and jaw end with an inner edge;

a second tool member having a handle end, a central portion, and a jaw end with an inner edge and wherein said jaw end of said second tool member has an axially oriented extension formed with a cylindrical socket and connected at said central portion to said central portion of said first piercing member wherein said first piercing member crosses said second tool member and said inner edge of said jaw end of said first piercing member faces said inner edge of said jaw end of said second tool member;

a piercing pin perpendicularly connected from said inner edge of said jaw end of said first piercing member; and

a retention hook extending from said inner edge of said jaw end of said second tool member wherein said retention hook extends toward said inner edge of said jaw end of said first piercing member and is located above said piercing pin.

12. (original)

The drip system tool of claim 11 wherein said socket has a diameter compatible with receiving a conventional cylindrical connector fitting for a drip irrigation system.

13. (original)

A drip system tool comprising:

an elongated piercing member having a handle end, a central portion, and piercing end with an inner edge;

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a fastener rotatably connected to said central portion of said piercing member;

an elongated retention member having a handle end, a central portion, and a retainer end with an inner edge and connected at said central portion to said fastener wherein said central portion of said piercing member crosses said central portion of said retention member and said inner edge of said piercing end of said piercing member faces said inner edge of said retainer end of said retention member and wherein said inner edges of said piercing and said retention ends are advanced towards each other when said handle ends of said piercing and said retention members are squeezed together;

an axially oriented extension formed with a cylindrical socket and connected to said retention end of said retention member;

a piercing pin having a first end and a second, tapered end culminating in a sharp point and perpendicularly connected on said first end to said inner edge of said piercing end of said piercing member;

a retention hook extending from said inner edge of said retainer end of said retention member wherein said retention hook extends toward said inner edge of said piercing end of said piercing member and is located above said piercing pin.

14. (original)

The drip system tool of claim 13 wherein said socket has a diameter compatible with receiving a conventional cylindrical connector fitting for a drip irrigation system.

15. (original)

The drip system tool of claim 13 wherein said piercing end of said piercing member is arcuate.

16. (original)

The drip system tool of claim 13 wherein said piercing pin is advanced toward said inner edge of said retainer end of said retention member when said handle ends of said piercing and said retention members are squeezed together.

17. (original)

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The drip system tool of claim 16 wherein the length of said piercing pin is limited and does not allow said tapered end of said piercing pin to reach said inner edge of said retention end of said retainer member when said handle ends of said piercing and said retention members are squeezed together.

18. (original)

The drip system tool of claim 13 wherein said retention hook is arced to accept a cylindrical tube between said retention hook and the intersection of said piercing and said retention members.

19. (original)

The drip system tool of claim 18 wherein said retention hook is advanced toward said inner edge of said piercing end of said piercing member when said handle ends of said piercing and said retention members are squeezed together.

20. (original)

The drip system tool of claim 13 wherein said handle ends of said piercing and said retention members have a gripping surface.